

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A lithographic apparatus comprising:  
  
an illumination system to provide a beam of radiation on a flat article on an article support in a beam path of said beam of radiation; and  
  
an article handler to move said article during placement of said article on, or removal of said article from said article support, said article handler comprising an electrode and a dielectric layer in order to form an electrostatic clamp to electrostatically clamp said article.
2. (Original) A lithographic apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said article handler comprises at least three mutually distanced contact members for contacting the article.
3. (Original) A lithographic apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the contact area of said contact members is less than about 80 mm<sup>2</sup>.
4. (Original) A lithographic apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus further comprises a presence detector to detect a presence of said article through a measured capacity formed by said electrode, said dielectric layer, and said article to be handled.
5. (Original) A lithographic apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said dielectric layer is wear resistant.
6. (Original) A lithographic apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the dielectric layer is provided with protrusions to provide a gap between the dielectric layer and the article to be handled.
7. (Original) A lithographic apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said gap ranges between about 0.1 and about 5 microns.

8. (Original) A lithographic apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said dielectric layer comprises at least one of SiO<sub>2</sub> and SiN.

9. (Previously Presented) A lithographic apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said dielectric layer has a thickness of less than about 50 microns, and has a dielectric constant of greater than about 3.

10. (Original) A lithographic apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said electrostatic clamp is designed to provide a clamping pressure greater than about  $1 \cdot 10^4$  Pa.

11. (Original) A lithographic apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said article handler comprises two electrodes.

12. (Original) A lithographic apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said electrodes are formed by an Si layer that is bonded on an isolator.

13. (Original) A lithographic apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said isolator comprises a substrate comprising an SiO<sub>2</sub> layer or a machined isolating substrate.

14. (Original) A lithographic apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said electrode comprises a metal pad bonded to said electrode in order to form a terminal for wiring said electrode.

15. (Original) A lithographic apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said metal pad is formed by an Al layer that is bonded to said electrode.

16. (Original) A lithographic apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an article support to support said article to be placed in a beam path of said beam of radiation on said article support, the article handler being provided in the article support.

17. (Original) A lithographic apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said article support is a support to support a patterning structure, the patterning structure configured to impart the beam of radiation with a pattern in its cross-section.

18. (Original) A lithographic apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said article support is a substrate support for supporting a substrate to be patterned by a patterned beam of radiation onto a target portion of the substrate.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Original) A device manufacturing method comprising:  
providing a substrate;  
handling said substrate by an article handler provided with an electrostatic clamp;  
detecting a presence of said substrate by detecting a capacity formed by said electrostatic clamp and said substrate;  
providing a beam of radiation using an illumination system;  
using a patterning structure to impart the projection beam with a pattern in its cross-section; and  
projecting, after detecting the presence of said substrate, the patterned beam of radiation onto a target portion of the substrate.

22. (Previously Presented) A lithographic apparatus comprising:  
an illumination system that provides a beam of radiation to an article;  
a support that supports the article;  
an article handler configured to move the article during placement of the article on, and removal of the article from, the support; and  
an electrostatic clamp configured to clamp the article to the article handler, the electrostatic clamp comprising an electrode and a dielectric layer.

23. (Original) A lithographic apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the article handler is integrated with the support.

24. (Original) A lithographic apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the article comprises a wafer.